

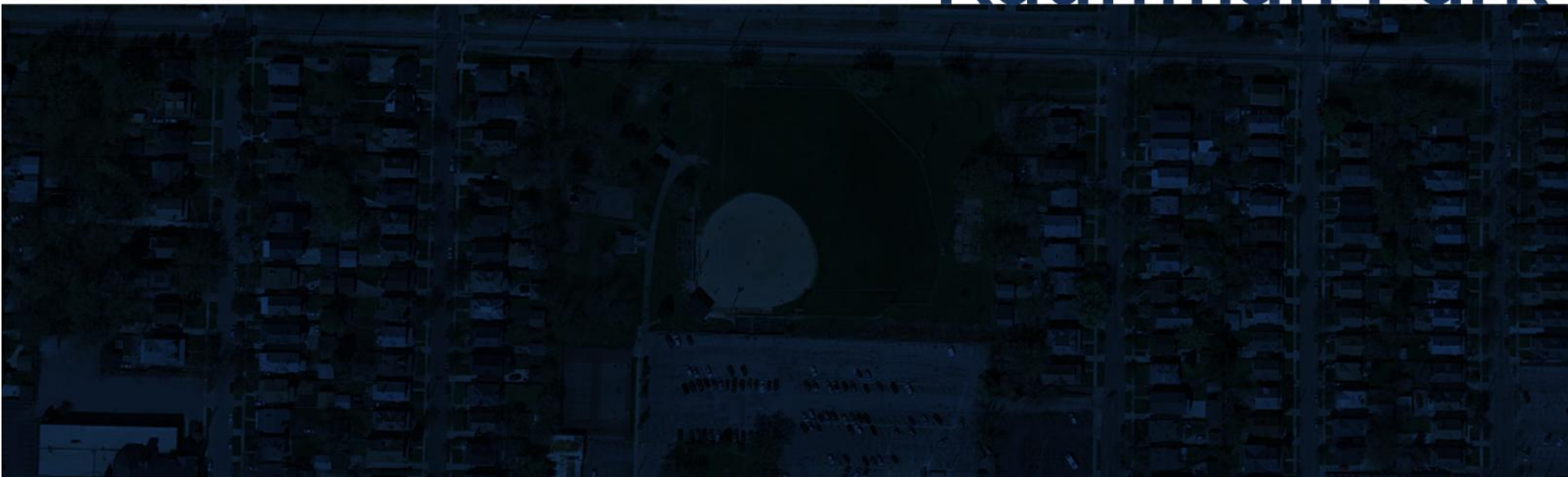
Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for

Education

Exploration

Entertainment

Kauffman Park





Kauffman Park

Table of Contents

Introduction

What is this Document?

The Process, Team, and Partners

Goals

Creating a Destination

Education

Exploration

Entertainment

General Park Enhancements

Next Steps

Cost Estimates for Improvements

Introduction

Strategically located in the heart of Downtown Lakewood, OH, Kauffman Park is a critical, if often overlooked, component of Lakewood. Named for long-serving mayor Amos Kauffman, the centrally located park acts as both the neighborhood park for the immediately surrounding streets and as a popular spot for local and regional baseball and softball games and tournaments. Basketball courts have recently been re-introduced to the mix of amenities that includes traditional playground equipment as well as tennis courts, a pavilion, and restroom facilities. This forced combination of uses, in addition to a lack of street front visibility and aging and obsolete equipment, have created challenges for Kauffman Park's identity. Although, a growing group of nearby residents, the Kauffman Park Friends, have set out to not only care for the park in its current condition but to work toward capitalizing on the park's assets and improve the park for all.

What is this Document?

This document represents the collective vision of the community for what they believe Kauffman Park can be. The intent of this document is to provide a structure for future park investment, outlining overall goals and ideas and highlighting individual projects that can be completed over time in the context of a holistic plan. The document will drive both public investment and fundraising initiatives moving forward.

The Process, Team, and Partners

LakewoodAlive, Lakewood's non-profit economic development corporation and facilitator of the Downtown Lakewood Main Street © Program, invited the Kauffman Park Friends to their Downtown Design Committee meeting on March 28th, 2012, to discuss ideas for improving the park. The result of that meeting was a partnership between LakewoodAlive, the Friends, and local design consultant j Creative.

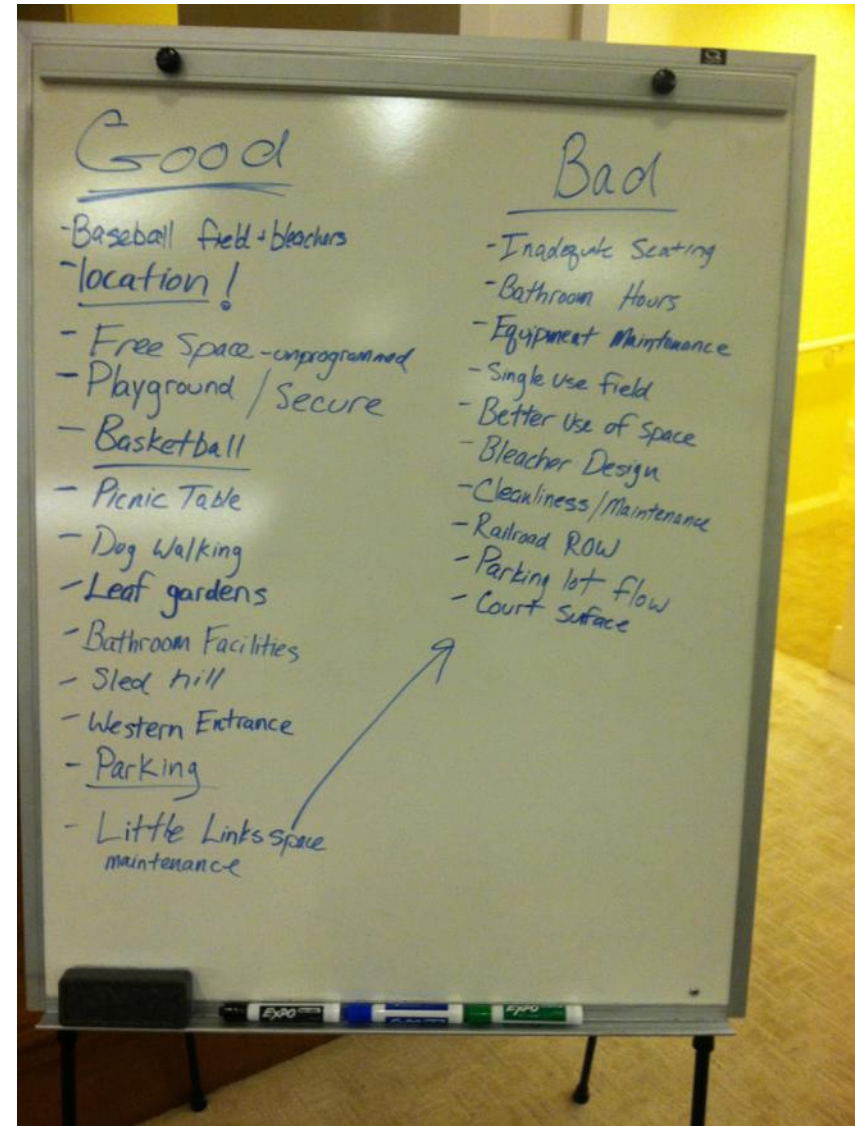
The team set out to craft a plan that focused on community input and involvement. Previous park studies and basic mapping information were gathered and analyzed prior to a public kickoff meeting held at Lakewood Public Library July 30th, 2012. Participants engaged in a spirited dialogue that focused on the future of the park. Surveys were prepared and distributed at Lakewood events and online to gather additional public input and feedback.

Relying heavily on the information gathered from the community, the team began to craft a vision for Kauffman Park that focused on making the park a civic asset and an integral part the Lakewood experience. Once crafted, the vision was discussed and shared in focus meetings with key stakeholders including the neighboring merchants and commercial property owners, Lakewood Public Library, Lakewood Historical Society, Lakewood Recreation Department, and the City of Lakewood. The resultant work was then shared during a second public meeting at Lakewood Public Library February 13th, 2013. Additional feedback was facilitated at the February 13th meeting to allow for the completion of the document as demonstrated herein.

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Long Term Goals Established During the Public Input Process

1. Change the way people think about Kauffman Park
2. Make Kauffman Park a destination for Lakewood
3. Enhance wayfinding and entry into the park
4. Maximize the existing unique assets of the park
5. Create an atmosphere inviting to a multigenerational audience
6. Promote the park through programming and events





Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Creating a Destination

Lakewood's parks range from several square feet to multiple acres in size and offer an array of amenities collectively. Lakewood and Madison parks stand out as destination parks given their unique features and size. Kauffman Park is in the ideal location to create a new destination park in addition to being large enough to accommodate a critical mass. Sitting at the western gateway to Downtown Lakewood, and among intense uses and strong neighborhoods, the park sits in an ideal strategic location to leverage the explosive growth and recent investment taking place in Downtown Lakewood.

To craft Kauffman Park into a true destination, people need to change their perception of the park. What now is a collection of aged playground equipment, worn tennis courts, and a large baseball field need to be thought of as a single concept. That concept needs to embody the thoughts, ideals, hopes and dreams of the community and reflect what they really think their park can be.

In order to be a successful park, the proposed concept is based on several themes gathered during the public input process, which include: the importance of Kauffman Park's location; focusing on non-traditional park amenities; and improving access to the park. These and other themes, including nods to Lakewood's (particularly this park) past, led to the creation of an overall concept for the park:

Kauffman Park is Lakewood's
Downtown Destination for
Education, Exploration, and
Entertainment.

Kauffman Park

Education

Interpretive Stations

1. Lakewood History
2. Native Species/Ecology
3. Gardening Practices

Reading Nooks

Exploration

Entertainment



Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Education

Kauffman Park's location is extremely important from more than just a purely geographical standpoint. The park reaches back into and touches numerous important aspects of Lakewood history from the city's founding to its explosive growth as a streetcar suburb. The Park is also within a short walk of 2 public elementary schools and the park's main entrance is across from the Lakewood Public Library. The public, students, and library patrons can all benefit from well-coordinated educational elements of an improved Kauffman Park.

The educational components of the plan (shown at left) are interpretive and learning stations focused on local history (1), native ecology (2), and sustainable gardening practices (3), and a series of outdoor reading "nooks" (blue dots).

The goal of these educational components is to encourage different types and places of learning and to create an atmosphere where educational elements and programming exist in harmony with more traditional and active park uses. Instead of a single "reading garden" or small area dedicated to signage, the elements are weaved artfully throughout the entire park, encouraging informal interaction and emphasizing the interconnectivity of history, ecology, arts and culture, and our urban environment

Physical installations are only one part of any educational experience. Programming and other active means of encouraging interaction with the elements in the park are critical to creating a vibrant, sustainable educational experience.

The Kauffman Park planning team has formed several alliances with local groups and continues to work with others to maximize interaction with and use of the park:

The Lakewood Historical Society is working to craft the historical stories to be told in the park and find historical images to bring them to life. Other programming opportunities, including programmed walks and docents, could complement the interpretive signage.

Lakewood Public Library is interested in encouraging patrons to check out books and then head over to the park to read among the trees and flowers.

Other hopes are to have Lakewood City Schools sponsor field trips to the park to learn about local history (and have some fun while doing it), and for local garden clubs to demonstrate best practices in the existing community gardens.

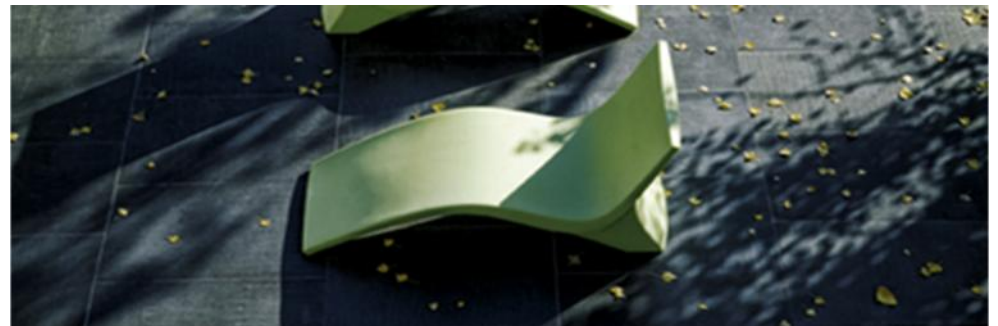


Above: Examples of artistically designed interpretive signage

Left and Below: Multiple styles of seating and contemplative landscape elements



Right: Potential interpretive panels outlining stories from Lakewood's rich history



Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Lakewood's Agricultural Roots

For its first 100 years Lakewood was an agricultural community. Farms ran north and south from Detroit Road, which was used by the farmers to transport their harvests east to the markets in Cleveland.



A key factor in the success of the fruit farms of the area was the association of naturalist, doctor, teacher and writer, Jared Potter Kirtland, who taught the farmers soil analysis and the grafting of plants and fruit trees.



Lakewood Booms



Electrified streetcar service commenced on Detroit Avenue to Rocky River in 1893, changing Lakewood from a farming community into a bustling suburb

Amos Kauffman, Lakewood's longest serving mayor, helped guide the city through the end of the Great Depression and oversaw the explosive growth of the post-war era.



Kauffman Park

Education

Interpretive Stations

1. Lakewood History
2. Native Species/Ecology
3. Gardening Practices

Reading Nooks

Exploration

Trails with unique paving

4. Urban Trail (concrete, "rail" detailing)
5. Nature Trail (groomed natural path)
6. Garden Trail (compacted crushed stone)

Entertainment



Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Exploration

Paths can be more than just a way to get from point A to point B. They can organize a space, help tell stories, mark a place as special, and encourage healthy living.

At Kauffman Park, 3 trails (shown at left) would connect to form a half mile “loop” and guide visitors through different areas of the park: The Urban Trail (4) is the main path through the park, connecting the park entrances at Detroit Avenue and Andrews Avenue. The Nature Trail (5) meanders through one of the more natural areas of the park, and the Garden Trail (6) loops around the existing community gardens.

All of the trails interact with the educational components and enhance the idea of the park becoming a story or a journey. Each path has unique paving elements that mark it as a special part of the park.



Above and Right: Examples of different types of paths, paving techniques, and details

Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**



Kauffman Park

Education

Interpretive Stations

1. Lakewood History
2. Native Species/Ecology
3. Gardening Practices

Reading Nooks

Exploration

Trails with unique paving

4. Urban Trail (concrete, "rail" detailing)
5. Nature Trail (groomed natural path)
6. Garden Trail (compacted crushed stone)

Entertainment

Active Play

7. Upgraded play equipment (trolley theme?)
8. Renovated ballfield and amenities
9. Upgraded court facilities

People Watching

10. Multipurpose hill to replace bleachers

Programming

11. Amphitheater and multipurpose "stage"



Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Entertainment

Every great park needs elements of fun! At Kauffman Park, existing amenities like the playground and play equipment (7) and ballfield (8) will be upgraded to increase their value to the park and the neighborhood. The play area is envisioned as a “natural” playground with play elements built into the natural and enhanced landscape. The ballfield will be upgraded to NCAA standards to attract more games and higher-quality tournaments.

An important but often overlooked function of any park is people watching. Removal of the underused and poorly-maintained bleachers on the third base side of the ballfield will allow for the installation of a large multipurpose hill (10) that will act as a natural grandstand for ballgames, a place to watch the kids play in the playground, and sledding in the winter. Enhancements to the existing hill near the entrance of the park (11) will create a second seating area for what will become a large amphitheatre, complete with a small stage that does double-duty as a splash pad on hot summer days.

Right: Example of a natural, wooded amphitheater





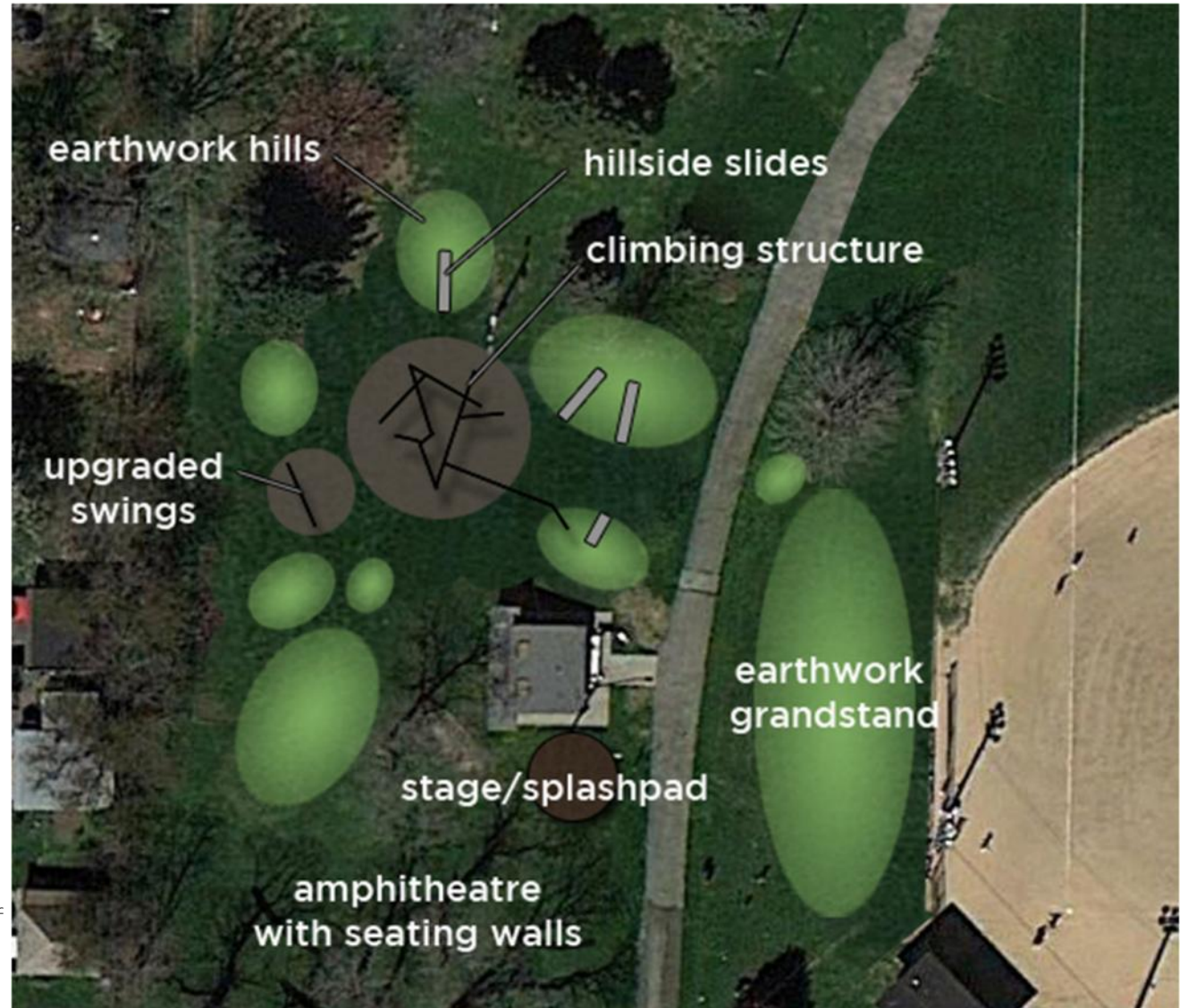
Above: A splash pad playground



Left (Above and Below): Non-traditional playground equipment

Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**



Above and Right: Before and after diagram of proposed play area, including amphitheater and earthwork grandstand

Kauffman Park

Education

Interpretive Stations

1. Lakewood History
2. Native Species/Ecology
3. Gardening Practices

Reading Nooks

Exploration

Trails with unique paving

4. Urban Trail (concrete, "rail" detailing)
5. Nature Trail (groomed natural path)
6. Garden Trail (compacted crushed stone)

Entertainment

Active Play

7. Upgraded play equipment (trolley theme?)
8. Renovated ballfield and amenities
9. Upgraded court facilities

People Watching

10. Multipurpose hill to replace bleachers

Programming

11. Amphitheater and multipurpose "stage"

General Improvements

Upgraded Entries with signage and landscape

Promenade from Detroit to park

New Entry treatment at parking lot

Splash pad integrated into stage

Upgraded furniture (multiple types/uses)

Lighting

Public Art



Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Kauffman Park is in need of first class improvements so that the park can be properly utilized by the general public. The ability of the park to serve a very wide user base merits that first class improvements and maintenance be undertaken.

With the addition of:

- Historical Placards
- A Series of Trails
- Unique and Inviting Play Equipment
- Upgraded Baseball Facilities
- Improved Basketball Court Facilities
- Multipurpose Hill
- Amphitheater / Splash Pad
- Gateways
- Entrance and Wayfinding Signage
- Landscaping
- Promenades
- Furniture and Fixtures
- Public Art

and

- Pathway and Area Lighting

...the park can become a gem in the center of Lakewood,
and easily become the destination park it deserves to be.

Along with the improvements listed above, with upgrades to the park come other possibilities for improvements such as:

Stormwater management:

The topography of the park could allow for stormwater management facilities to be incorporated into the improvements. These stormwater best management practices could include, bioswales, raingardens, vegetated swails, and underground infiltration and retention areas. The use of these stormwater best management practices could assist in the reduction of stormwater entering the existing combined sewer system.

Bike Infrastructure

The park can offer a safe downtown location for bike parking, bike lockers, a repair station, all within walking distance to RTA line 26



Above: Concept plan of Detroit Avenue park entry

Kauffman Park

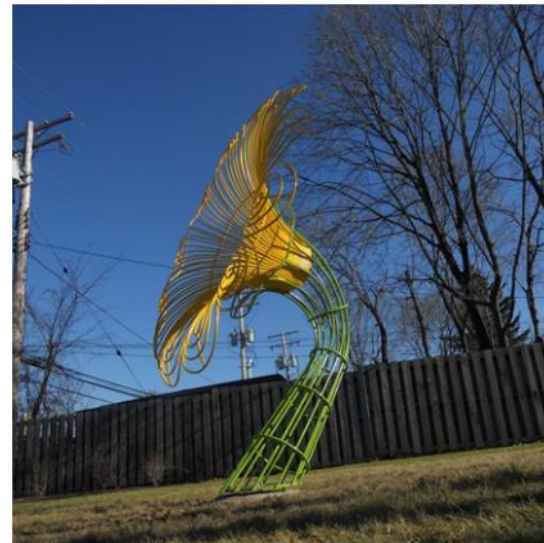
Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Gateways and Entries

Getting into Kauffman Park is presently not a fun or inviting experience. A long walk down a wide, stark street comprises the main entry from Detroit, while a small chain link gate greets visitors from Andrews. To enhance and celebrate the entry from the South, a promenade along Arthur Avenue Extension is envisioned. By narrowing the roadway and constructing a “bump out” at Detroit Avenue, substantial pedestrian area is gained and will accommodate a wider more inviting sidewalk, park signage and entry way features, and additional landscaping, trees, benches, public art, and other amenities (see plan at left).

At Andrews Avenue, a more neighborhood-scaled entry will feature park signage and an allee, harkening back to the land's original use as a fruit tree orchard. Also, an additional pedestrian entrance from Lakeland Avenue will allow for better neighborhood access to the park.





Kauffman Park

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Make it Special

Public Art

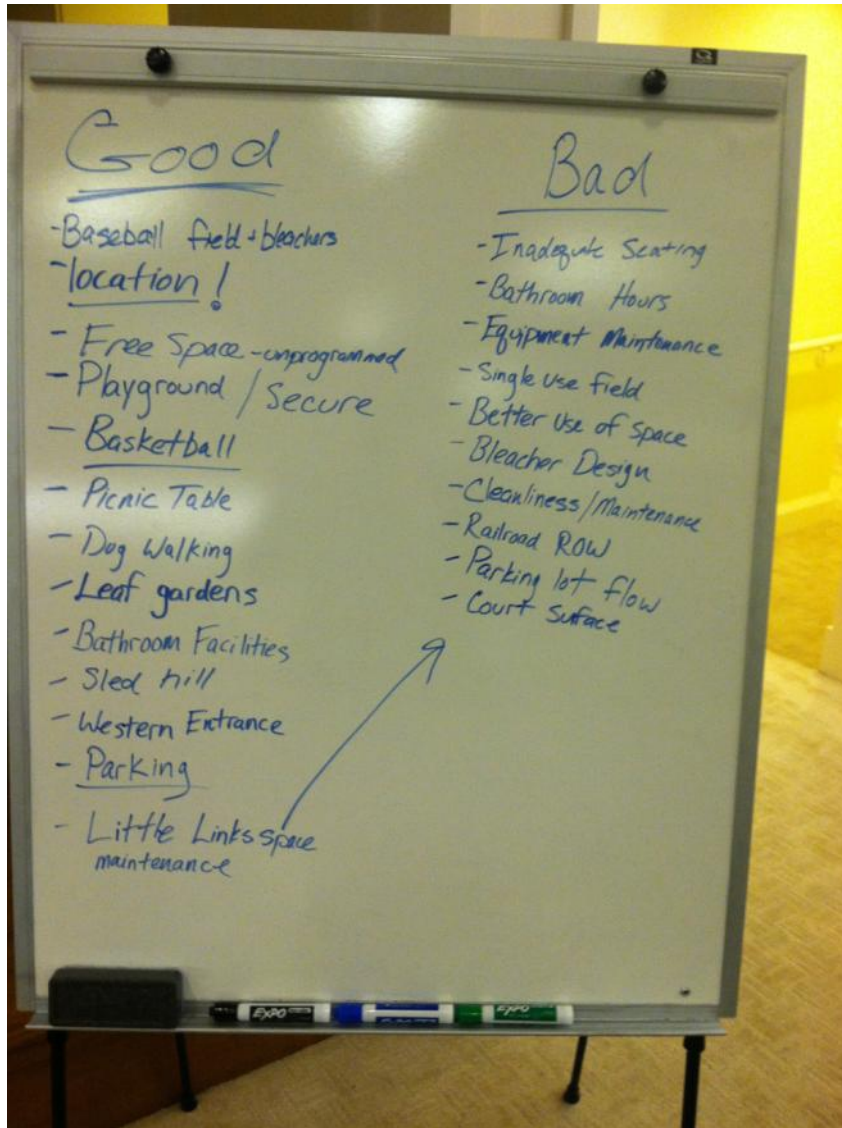
The first class improvements made to the park should include unique features and design to emulate the uniqueness of the community and the park itself. Public art should not only be installed throughout the park in thought provoking and unique settings, but also be incorporated into the design of play equipment, furniture, fixtures, signage, and pathways. All aspects of the park should incorporate features that distinguish the park as a unique and one-of-a kind place.

Events

A successful and utilized park breeds pride, safety, and awareness. Through planned and staged events such as concerts, history walks, field trips, gardening seminars, and baseball tournaments, the park can flourish with activity and naturally become a destination for Lakewood residents, downtown patrons, and out of town guests.

Programming

Integrating the park and its offerings with the needs for programming space of local community groups, institutions, and schools will allow the park to become a vital part of those group's curriculum and missions. With the proposed combination of educational, explorative, and entertainment offerings, the park will be able to offer a first class central location for Lakewood's engaged citizenry.



Next Steps

As stated herein, the intent of this document is to provide a structure for future park investment, outlining overall goals and ideas and highlighting individual projects that can be completed over time in the context of a holistic plan. This document will drive both public investment and fundraising initiatives moving forward. As opportunities arise to implement portions of this plan, detailed and specific plans will be developed, as this document provides only the general framework.

Although welcomed funding opportunities may arise that dictate a certain order of construction of improvements, a general prioritization of the improvements is as follows:

Group 1

- Gateway Improvements
- Entrance Signage
- Installation of Trail System

Group 2

- Upgraded Baseball Facilities
- Multipurpose Hill
- Amphitheater / Splash Pad
- Unique and Inviting Play Equipment
- Public Art

Group 3

- Furniture and Fixtures
- Historical Placards
- Wayfinding Signage
- Landscaping
- Promenades
- Improved Basketball Court Facilities
- Pathway and Area Lighting

Lakewood's Downtown **Destination** for **Education**, **Exploration**, and **Entertainment**

Priority Matrix

	Visibility	Cost vs Impact	User Experience	Resident/ Neighborhood Benefit	Visitor Benefit	Safety	Uniqueness	Educational Benefit	Total	Kauffman Park Friends Priority Grouping (1, 2 or 3)
Amphitheater/Splash Pad	5	4	5	5	5	1	5	5	35	Group 2
Play Equipment	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	3	35	Group 2
Trail System	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	1	33	Group 1
Public Art	5	3	4	5	5	1	5	4	32	Group 2
Gateway Improvements	5	5	4	5	5	3	3	1	31	Group 1
Multipurpose Hill	5	5	5	4	5	2	4	1	31	Group 2
Placards	5	3	4	4	5	1	4	5	31	Group 3
Landscaping	5	5	5	5	5	1	2	1	29	Group 3
Entrance Signage	5	5	4	4	5	1	3	1	28	Group 1
Furniture and Fixtures	3	4	4	5	5	1	1	5	28	Group 3
Upgrade Baseball	5	3	4	2	5	2	1	1	23	Group 2
Pathway/Lights	5	2	3	2	4	5	1	1	23	Group 3
Court Facilities	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	17	Group 3

Contact Information:



Jcreative.bryan@gmail.com

**KAUFFMAN PARK
FRIENDS**

facebook.com/pages/Kauffman-Park-Friends



216-521-0655